

*Application No. 10/713,639*REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated January 24, 2005. Claims 1-5, 17, 26 and 33 are amended, without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. No claims have been canceled. Claims 36-50 stand withdrawn. Claims 51 and 52 are new. Accordingly, Claims 1-35 and 51-52 are now pending. As set out more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7, 11-13, 16-24, 28, 29 and 32-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,824,429 to Hwang ("Hwang"). In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 to be proper, each and every element as set forth in a claim must be found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (MPEP §2131.) However, each and every element of the claims cannot be found in the Hwang reference. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

The invention set forth in the pending claims is generally directed to a shield to prevent or attenuate leaks of electromagnetic radiation from within a shielded cabinet. The shield generally includes a connector aperture, for receiving all or a portion of a conventional input/output electrical connector and at least one cable aperture, to allow a cable comprising all or some of the signal lines associated with pins or contacts provided by the connector to exit an enclosure formed by a shielded cabinet and the interconnected shield.

The Hwang reference is generally directed to a transceiver cage assembly. In particular, Hwang has as an object providing a shielding cage assembly for retaining a plurality of transceiver modules that is easily mountable to a printed circuit board. (Hwang, col. 1, ll. 26-29.) The assembly described by Hwang includes a number of transceiver cages 1 formed from an upper cage 6 and a bottom cage 7. (Hwang, col. 2, ll. 9-11; Figs. 4 and 5.) The transceiver cages 1 are soldered to a connecting cover 2 such that the front ends of the transceiver cages 1 are exposed at the front of the connecting cover 2. (Hwang, col. 3, ll. 13-22.) The assembly is then

*Application No. 10/713,639*

mounted to a circuit board 3 such that the front ends of the transceiver cages 1 extend out of windows 81. (Hwang, col. 2, ll. 2-8; col. 3, ll. 36-37.)

Claim 1 is generally directed to a connector shield. As amended, Claim 1 recites a connector shield comprising "at least four side panels." In addition, amended Claim 1 recites "a number of mounting elements proximate to a first end of said connector shield, wherein at least two of said mounting elements are on opposite sides of said connector aperture, and wherein said mounting elements are operable to interconnect said connector shield to a cabinet of an electrical component." Claim 1 further recites "a cable aperture proximate to a second end of said connector shield" and "an interior volume defined at least in part by said four side panels, wherein electromagnetic radiation . . . is prevented from exiting said interior volume through said cable aperture."

The Hwang reference does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element as set forth in amended Claim 1. For example, Hwang does not discuss a number of mounting elements in which at least two of the mounting elements are on opposite sides of a connector aperture. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Claim 1 and dependent Claims 2, 3, 7, 11-13 and 16 are not anticipated by Hwang, and the rejections of these claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 17 is generally directed to a connector shield comprising a connector aperture and a cable aperture. In addition, amended Claim 17 recites "a lid member, wherein said lid member may be selectively placed in at least one of a closed position and an open position."

The Hwang reference does not teach, suggest or disclose a lid member that may be selectively placed in a closed or an open position. Instead, the structure in Hwang identified by the Office Action as corresponding to the recited lid member is the "back plate 24" of a connecting cover 2. (Hwang, col. 2, ll. 54-57.) This back plate is not described by Hwang as being movable, nor would it inherently be movable. Accordingly, Claim 17 and the claims dependent therefrom are not anticipated by Hwang for at least the reason that a lid member that can be selectively placed in a closed position or in an open position is not described by the

*Application No. 10/713,639*

Hwang reference. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 17-24, 28, 29 and 32 are respectfully requested.

Claim 33 is generally directed to a multiple pin connector shield system. The shield system includes means for enclosing electronic componentry capable of at least one of receiving and transmitting electronic signals, wherein the means for enclosing electronic componentry defines an interior volume. In addition, Claim 33 recites shield "means for preventing electromagnetic radiation having no more than a first frequency from passing through said shield means into an environment surrounding said means for enclosing, wherein substantially all of said shield means is outside of said interior volume of said means for enclosing electronic componentry."

The Hwang reference does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element of Claim 33. For instance, Hwang does not describe a system with a means for enclosing electronic componentry and shield means in which substantially all of the shield means is outside of an interior volume of the electronic componentry. Therefore, for at least these reasons, the rejections of Claims 33 and dependent Claims 34-35 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 4, 6, 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hwang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,364,706 to Ando et al. ("Ando"), and Claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hwang. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under section 103, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings, there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and the prior art reference or references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. (MPEP §2143.) As discussed above, the Hwang reference does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element of independent Claims 1, 17 and 33. Furthermore, the deficiencies in the disclosure of Hwang are not made up by the disclosure of Ando. Accordingly, as set forth more fully below, the rejections of Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 25, 27 and 30-31 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

*Application No. 10/713,639*

The Ando reference is generally directed to a shielded electrical connector with flange support member. More particularly, Ando discusses a shielded connector that is mountable to a circuit board. (Ando, col. 3, ll. 57-60.) The shielded connector of Ando has a support member for improving the rigidity of the shield. (Ando, col. 1, ll. 26-28.) In a completed assembly, the electrical connector is interconnected to a circuit board and to the interior of a panel. (Ando, col. 3, ll. 57-60; col. 4, ll. 30-35; Fig. 5.) The Office Action cites to Ando for disclosing mounting flanges to facilitate mounting to a panel. However, even if it is accepted that Ando discloses mounting flanges generally, elements described above as being absent from the disclosure of the Hwang reference cannot be found in the Ando reference. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, it is submitted that the rejections of Claims 4, 6, 25 and 27 as obvious should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

As noted above, the Hwang reference does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element of the rejected independent claims. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the rejections of Claims 9, 10, 14, 15, 20, 12, 30 and 31 as obvious should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants note that various of the dependent claims recite additional patentable subject matter. For example, Claims 13 and 19 recite a lid member that is interconnected to a body of the connector shield by a hinge. The Office Action finds that a back wall of the cover plate in Hwang, formed by folding a piece of metal, corresponds to the recited hinge. However, Applicants note that this construction is contrary to the ordinary meaning of a "hinge," which typically permits movement. Furthermore, the Applicants' usage of the word "hinge" in the specification is not contrary to such ordinary meaning. Therefore, for at least these additional reasons, Claims 13 and 19 should be allowed.

Claims 51 and 52 are new, and generally depend from Claim 33. Therefore, they should be allowable for the same reasons that Claim 33 is allowable. In addition, Claim 51 recites that the means for enclosing electronic componentry includes access panel means with an access aperture formed therein. There is no disclosure of a means for enclosing with an access panel means as recited by Claim 51 in the cited references. In addition, Claim 51 recites that the shield

Application No. 10/713,639

means substantially covers the access aperture in the means for enclosing electronic componentry. Such a feature is also not found in the cited references. Therefore, for at least these additional reasons, Claims 51 and 52 should be allowed.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 5 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the amendments set forth above, Claims 5 and 26 have been amended so that they are now in independent form. Accordingly, it is submitted that the objections to Claims 5 and 26 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The application now appearing to be in form for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.

By: 

Bradley M. Knepper

Registration No. 44,189

1560 Broadway, Suite 1200

Denver, CO 80202-5141

(303) 863-9700

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